WAR AND FIGHTING MEN

FRONTLINE COMBAT

AN ENTERTAINING EC COMIC

No. 7
JUL-AUG.

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AN ENTERTAINING EC COMIC

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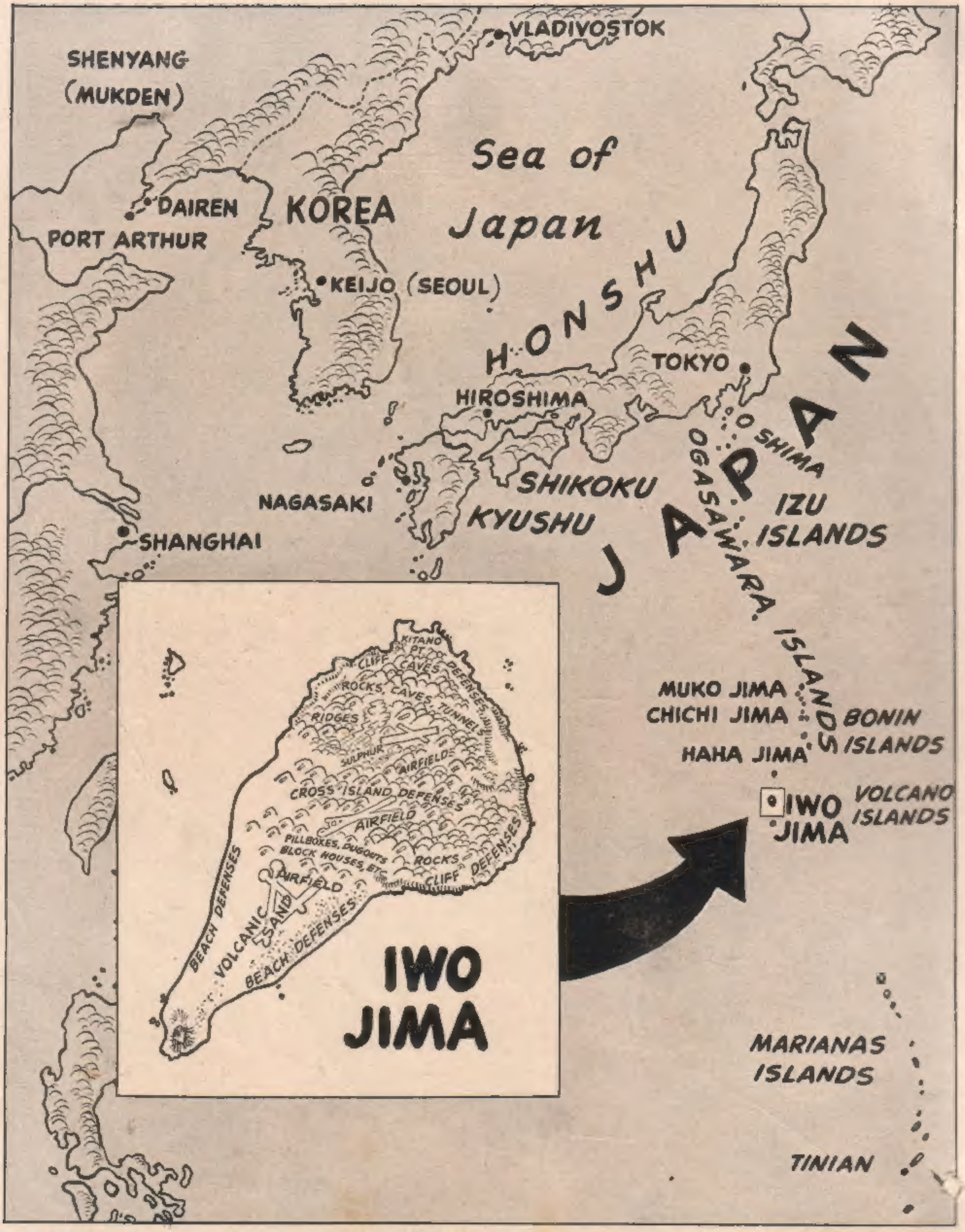
SPECIAL ISSUE: A DOCUMENT OF THE ACTION AT IWO JIMA



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CHAPTER I: THE FOLLOWING FOUR STORIES TELL OF THE ROUGHEST MARINE ACTION IN 168 YEARS OF MARINE HISTORY! THE TIME WAS FEBRUARY AND MARCH OF 1945 DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR! THE PLACE WAS IN JAPAN'S BACK YARD ON A TINY STEPPING STONE ISLAND CALLED...

IWO JIMA!

THE TOKYO FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL SURE BE BUSY TODAY!

LOOK! FLAK!

WOOD

WE'RE ALMOST OVER THE PACIFIC! SOON WE'LL BE OUT OF RANGE!

YEAH, PETER! NOW COMES THE BIG TRIP HOME!

1500 MILES BACK TO TINIAN! 1500 MILES OF OCEAN... HOPE NOTHING HAPPENS ON THE WAY!

LOOK AT THAT FLAK!

WELL... THERE'S ALWAYS...

HEY!

KRUMF!

THAT BURST WAS CLOSE! EVERYONE O.K.?

TAIL O.K.!

WAIST GUNS O.K.!

TOP GUN O.K.!

MICKEY O.K.!

HEY! LISTEN TO THAT NUMBER TWO ENGINE!

RADIO O.K.!

O.K. NAVI-GATOR!

ENGINEER O.K.!

BOMBER HERE!

CHOK CHOK GRROARR

ENGINEER TO PILOT! OIL LEAK IN NUMBER TWO!

HOLY SMOKE! WE'LL HAVE TO FEATHER THE PROP!

NUMBER ONE ENGINE SOUNDS ROUGH TOO! HOW ARE WE DOING, NAVIGATOR?

KLORTCH KA SRUNG BRRUNK KLUMP WOMP

WE'RE LOSING ALTITUDE! CAN WE MAKE IT TO AN AIRSTRIP?

JUST A MINUTE, PETER!... WE'RE OVER THE OGASAWARA ISLAND CHAIN...

WOMP

WUMP

WE CAN'T MAKE IT BACK TO TINIAN, BUT WE MIGHT MAKE IT TO THAT ISLAND THE MARINES ARE STILL FIGHTING FOR! YEAH! WITH LUCK, WE CAN MAKE IT TO IWO JIMA!

JAPAN

IWO JIMA

VOLCANO ISLANDS

MARIANAS

TINIAN

GUAM

IWO JIMA! THAT'S WHERE DAVID IS FIGHTING! MY BROTHER, DAVID! THAT'S A FUNNY TWIST OF FATE! WONDER HOW HE IS?

IWO JIMA! WHY JUST THE OTHER DAY, THAT GEOLOGIST FELLA FROM G.I. WAS TELLING ME ABOUT IT! WHAT WAS IT HE SAID?

IWO JIMA IS PART OF AN ISLAND CHAIN CALLED THE OGASAWARA SHOTO!... AN ISLAND CHAIN... THE TIPS OF A VAST UNDERWATER RIDGE!

LIKE A STRING OF BEADS, THE ISLANDS STRETCH 700 MILES SOUTH FROM THE JAPANESE SHORE!

FIRST, OUT OF JAPAN, THERE ARE THE ***IZU ISLANDS!*** SCRAGGLY BITS OF WILD, UNFRIENDLY ROCK!

THEN THERE ARE THE LARGER, FOREST-COVERED ***BONIN ISLANDS!*** ...BONIN: THAT MEANS 'EMPTY OF MEN'!

THEN A LONG STRETCH OF OCEAN, AND FINALLY, THREE BLEAK LITTLE ROCKS KNOWN AS THE ***VOLCANO ISLANDS!***

AND SO THEY ARE! ***KITA JIMA*** TO THE NORTH, ***MINAMI JIMA*** TO THE SOUTH, AND IN THE MIDDLE, ***IWO JIMA!***

UGLY, BARREN IWO JIMA! EIGHT SQUARE MILES OF BROKEN VOLCANO STONE AND BLACK VOLCANIC ASH!

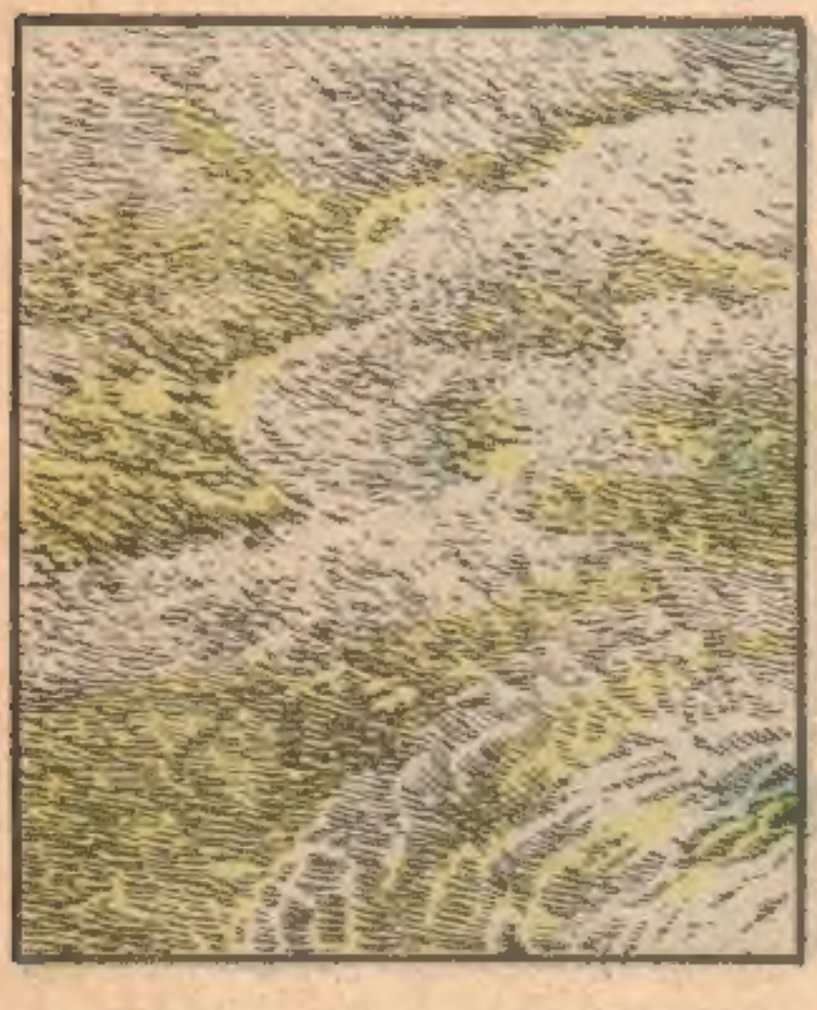
AND AFTER IWO JIMA, NOTHING BUT WATER! ***800 MILES*** OF WATER TO OUR AIR-BASE ON TINIAN ISLAND IN THE MARIANAS!

AMAZING! THESE LITTLE BITS OF LAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS ENORMOUS OCEAN! BUT NOT SO AMAZING WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT THERE'S A HUGE MOUNTAIN RANGE DOWN UNDER THE WATER, THERE!

A VOLCANIC MOUNTAIN RANGE... *ALWAYS PUSHING UP!* A MILLION YEARS AGO, THERE **WAS** NO IWO JIMA!

JUST WATER! THEN ONE DAY, THE WATER STARTED BOILING AND STEAMING WHERE IWO JIMA NOW STANDS!

AND SOON, WHERE ALL WAS ONCE UNINTERRUPTED OCEAN, THE SEA NOW **BROKE** OVER A ROCK!

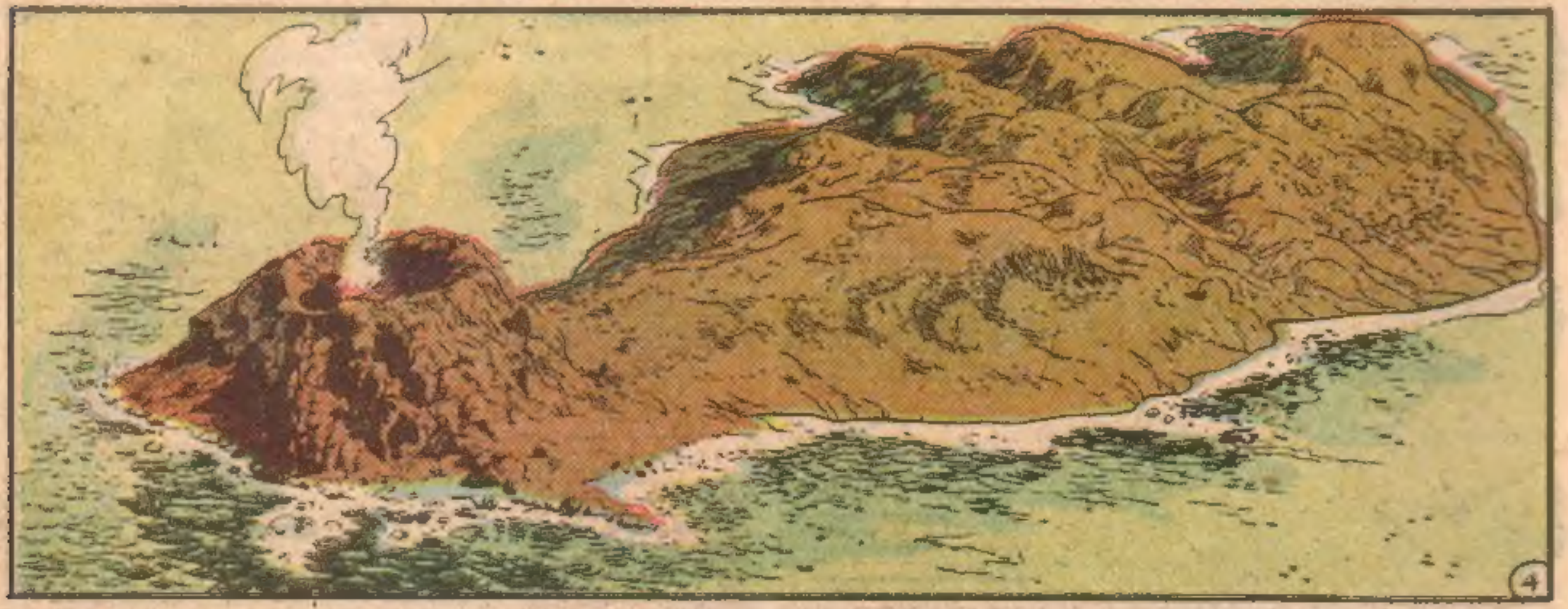


A GREY AND BLACK ROCK! THE TIP OF A HUGE MOUNTAIN BENEATH THE SEA... PUSHING *UP* AND *UP!*

MUCH LATER, TO THE SOUTHWEST OF THE ROCK, THE SEA SPOUTED AND STEAMED AGAIN, AND *THIS* TIME...

...A *VOLCANO* PUSHED ITS WAY UP FROM THE OCEAN FLOOR... RAPIDLY FORMING A CINDER CONE ABOUT THE SEA!

AS THE ISLANDS KEPT RISING OUT OF THE SEA, A CONNECTING STRIP OF LAND APPEARED BETWEEN THEM, MAKING BOTH ISLANDS ONE! AND THERE IT STOOD... EIGHT SQUARE MILES OF BLACK, SMOKING, SULPHUROUS ROCK... HAVING NO ATTRACTION FOR MAN NOR BEAST! THERE STOOD *IWO JIMA!*



THE WHALING SHIPS USED TO SAIL THESE WATERS, ***BUT THEY NEVER PUT IN ON IWO JIMA!*** THE ISLAND WASN'T GOOD FOR FUEL OR SUPPLY!

COMMODORE PERRY TRIED TO GET THE UNITED STATES TO SET UP A COALING STATION UP THIS WAY IN 1853!

BUT ***WE WEREN'T INTERESTED THEN!*** AND IT'S EASY TO SEE WHY! IWO IS PROBABLY THE MOST UNWHOLESOME ISLAND IN THE WORLD!

THE FELLAS WHO TOUCHED DOWN THERE THIS WEEK HAVE TOLD US THE SAND ON IWO JIMA IS ***BLACK!*** ***VOLCANIC ASH!*** CAN YOU IMAGINE A ***BLACK BEACH?***

AND THE LANDSCAPE... ***BIG BROKEN BOULDERS!*** A ***YELLOW-GREY JUMBLE OF CRAGS*** AND ***ROCKY RIDGES***... LIKE A SCENE OUT OF 'WUTHERING HEIGHTS'!

AND TO ADD TO THE EFFECT, THE NORTHERN END OF THE ISLAND IS COVERED WITH ***SMALL GNARLED, LEAFLESS BUSHES, TREES AND GROUND CREEPERS!***

TO TOP IT ALL OFF, IN MANY SECTIONS, THE HOT GROUND ***SMOKES*** AND ***STEAMS*** WITH A ***SULPHUR STINK*** LIKE A REAL ***DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND!***

THERE IT IS!... AS UGLY A PIECE OF LAND AS YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE IN YOUR **WILDEST DREAMS!**

MISERABLE ISLAND! **NOBODY WANTED IT**, SO THE JAPANESE LAID CLAIM TO IT AND SHUT OUT ALL WHITE MEN FOR THE PAST THIRTY YEARS!

NOW... THE WAR! AND THE WHOLE WORLD IS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN! IWO JIMA... AN ISLAND THAT ONCE, **NOBODY WANTED**, NOW...

...EVERYONE WANTS IWO JIMA! TWENTY THOUSAND JAPANESE DEFENDING THE ISLAND! **SIXTY THOUSAND MARINES** TRYING TO GET THEM OUT! **EIGHTY THOUSAND MEN** ON **EIGHT** SQUARE MILES! THAT'S **TEN-THOUSAND MEN TO THE SQUARE MILE**... THE MOST CROWDED PIECE OF REAL ESTATE IN THE WORLD!

YEP! NOW **EVERYONE WANTS IWO JIMA!** WOOP... HERE WE GO!

GET READY TO LAND, MEN! AND **HANG ON TIGHT!** IT MAY NOT BE TOO SMOOTH!

ON FEBRUARY 19, 1945... **D-DAY**... THE MARINES LANDED AND HELD THE BEACH! THE BATTLE FOR IWO JIMA WAS ON!

CHAPTER II: FOR 72 DAYS BEFORE THE INVASION, IWO JIMA WAS CONTINUOUSLY BOMBED AND SHELLED! AN AERIAL PHOTO REVEALED 5,000 SHELL CRATERS IN ONE SQUARE IWO JIMA MILE! AS DAWN CAME UP ON D-DAY, A LAST CRESCENDO OF SHELLS SMASHED ON IWO, AND THEN, ALL WAS QUIET FOR...

THE LANDING!

NO COUNTER-FIRE, BLACKIE! LOOKS FISHY TO ME!
DON'T GET YELLOW, 'CHICKEN'! THIS LOOKS LIKE A CINCH!
I WOULDN'T BE TOO SURE, BLACKIE! BACK ON TINI...

CRACK!

CRACK! CRACK! YAMA-DA-YAMA-DA-YAMA!

CRACK! CRACK! BDOW! BDOW! BDOW!

BAM

I KNEW IT LOOKED FISHY!

THE SERGEANT IS CALLING US! WE'D BETTER MOVE!

COME ON, BLACKIE! THEM JAPS ARE CUTTING LOOSE! LET'S GET OFF THE BEACH!

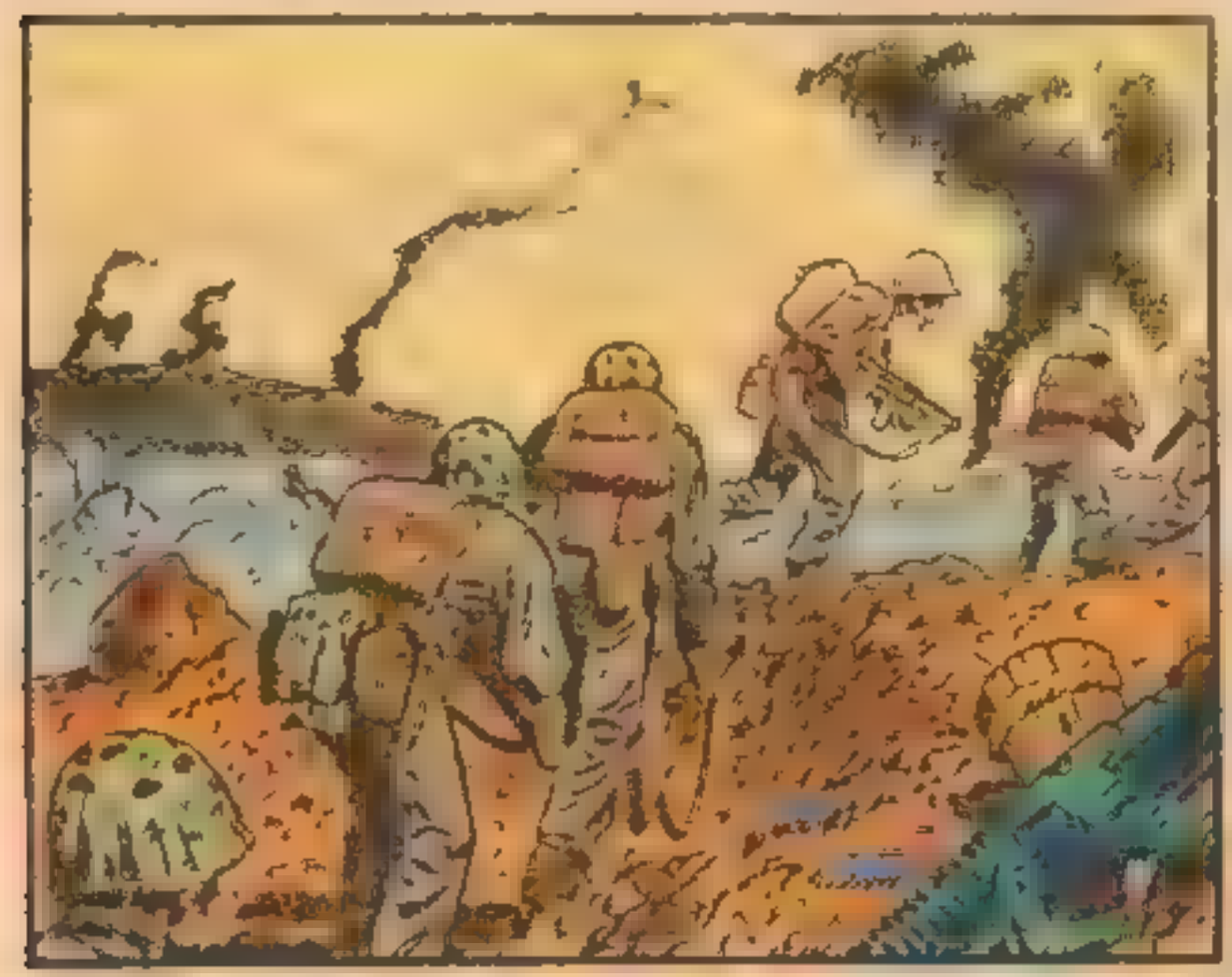
COME ON! COME ON, YOU GUYS! GET OFF THE BEACH AND MOVE IN!

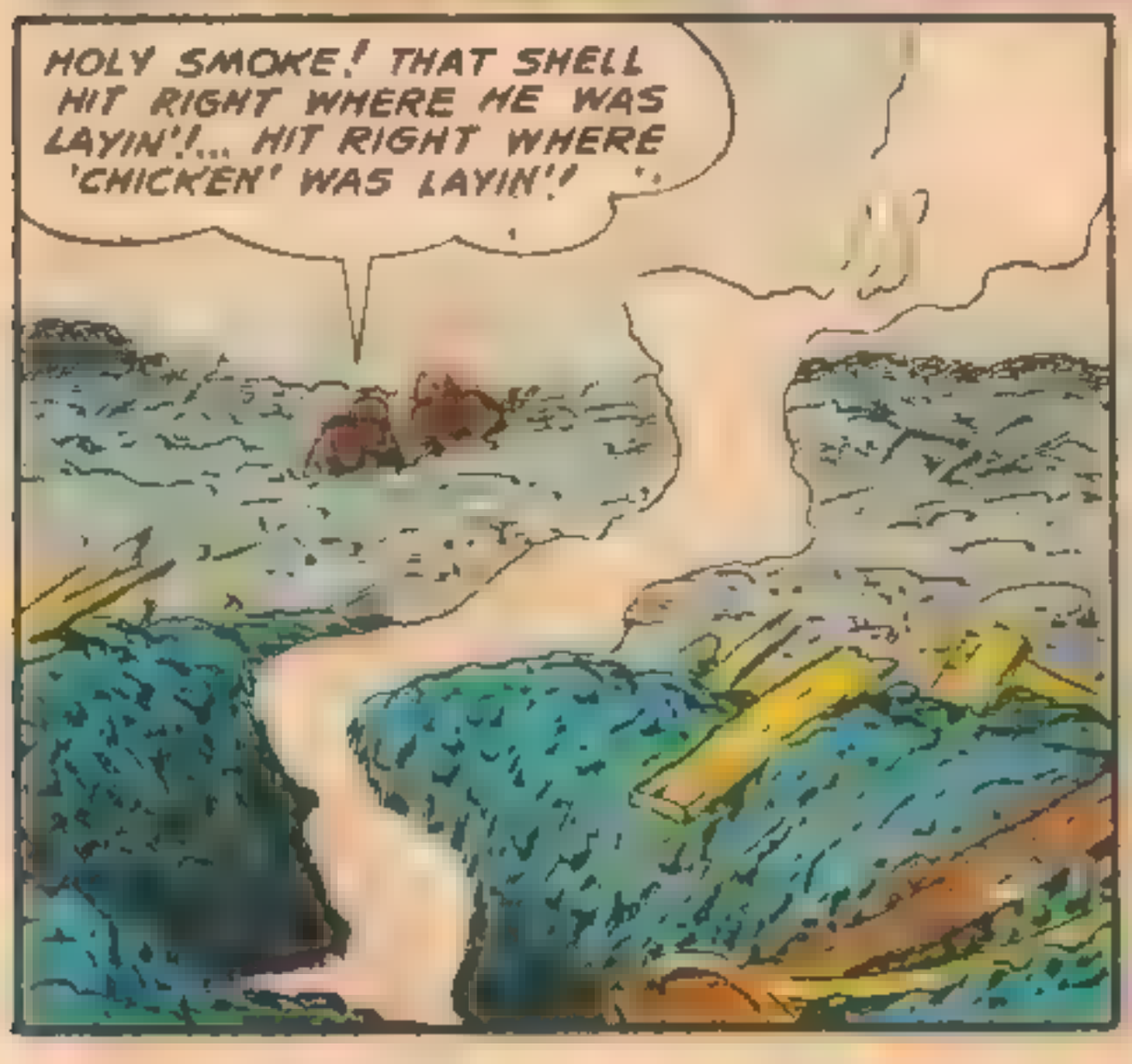
IT'S SUICIDE TO STAY ON THE BEACH! COME ON! COME ON, BLACK!

BLACK MOVES KIND OF SLOW, SERGEANT! I HOPE HE WORKS OUT!

MMM!... GIVE HIM A CHANCE! HE HASN'T BEEN UNDER FIRE BEFORE!... GIVE HIM A CHANCE!

D-DAY PLUS 3! BY D PLUS 3, NO-MAN'S MAN AR-FELD WAS IN MARINE HANDS AND NOW THEY SWUNG NORTH RIGHT INTO A MAZE OF PILLBOXES AND MINES!





ON THE LINE! EVERYBODY! GET ON THE LINE!

THERE'S A JAP MACHINE GUN SET IN A HOLE JUST BACK OF THAT KUNAI GRASS!

NOW! EVERYBODY! GIVE IT THE WORKS!

POW POW POW

BLAM!

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM!

THAT DID IT!

HEY LOOK, SARGE!

OUR FLAG'S GOING UP ON MOUNT SURABACHI!

LOOKS GOOD, HUH?

YEAH! NOW THE JAPS CAN'T LOOK DOWN OUR THROATS FROM UP ON THAT END, ANYHOW!

LOOK, SARGE! LOOK WHO'S COMING UP ON THE LINE!

YEAH!

BLACK!

LAST ONE UP AS USUAL! HE ISN'T DOING THIS PLATOON MUCH GOOD! I SURE HOPE HE SNAPS OUT OF IT!

D-DAY PLUS 8! BY D PLUS 8, THE MARINES HAD TAKEN THE SECOND AIRFIELD! AND NOW THEY FACED THE WORST OF IT... THE JAP CROSS ISLAND DEFENSES!

JOE! A SNIPER GOT JOE!

ALL RIGHT, GUYS! THAT SNIPER'S BURNED OUT! LET'S MOVE UP NOW!

I'M STAYING! I'M STAYING BEHIND WHERE IT'S SAFE!

THAT MEANS YOU TOO, BLACK! LET'S GO!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME, BLACK? GET UP!

I'M STAYING BEHIND! I'M STAYING BEHIND!

GET UP, BLACK! THAT'S AN ORDER!

TO HECK WITH 'IM, CORPORAL! LET'S GO!

YEAH! WE'LL BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT THAT COWARD!

LET THEM GO! I'M STAYING BEHIND WHERE IT'S SAFE!

OVER HERE, MARINES! DROP EVERYTHING HERE... I'LL SET UP AN AID STATION RIGHT HERE!

ARE YOU HURT, MARINE?

NO SIR. I'M STAYING BEHIND THE LINES TO WATCH THE CAVES

CAVES, EH? AREN'T THESE CAVES BURNED OUT?

GUESS YOU MARINES KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! O.K., MEN! LEAVE THOSE LITTERS HERE!

OVER HERE, MARINES! BRING THE WOUNDED OVER HERE!

CRACK!

WHERE'S THAT CASE OF SURGICAL...

OW!

USN

CRACK! CRACK!

TAKE COVER!

TAKE THAT LITTER BACK!

SNIPER!

GO BACK!

THE JAPS FILTERED BACK INTO THOSE CAVES!

SOMEBODY GET A RIFLE PLATOON BACK HERE ON THE DOUBLE!

LET'S GET A COUPLE OF FLAME THROWERS ON THOSE CAVES AND THEN, 'DOZE 'EM SHUT!

DEPLOY BEHIND THE ROCKS, MEN, AND KEEP THEM JAPS PINNED DOWN IN THE CAVES!

WE'VE GOT A FLAME-THROWING TANK COMING UP! JUST KEEP FIRING!

KRAK! KRAK! KRAK! K-POW! K-POW! POW! BLAM!

O.K., MEN! HERE COMES OUR TANK! LET'S CLEAR OUT OF THE WAY FOR THE TANK!

IF THAT DON'T WORK NOTHING EVER WILL! THAT HILL MUST BE HONEYCOMBED WITH PASSAGEWAYS! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BULLDOZE THE CAVES SHUT... SEAL 'EM FOR GOOD!

LOOK, SARGE! BLACK IS STILL CRINGING THERE AMONGST THE ROCKS!

YEAH! HE HASN'T MOVED SINCE WE LEFT!

BLACK! I'M GOING TO GET YOU COURT MARTIALED FOR THIS! GET UP!

STAYING BACK HERE WHILE WE WENT AHEAD! GET UP, I... HUH?

HE'S KILLED. SHOT IN THE HEAD LAYING THERE WITH HIS EYES OPEN LIKE HE WAS ALIVE HE MUST HAVE BEEN DEAD WHEN WE LEFT HIM HERE!

AND I YELLED AT HIM AND CALLED HIM A COWARD!

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE POOR GUY!

O.K., MEN! LET'S MOVE OUT! SNAP IT UP!

BY D PLUS 10 THE MARINES HAD SMASHED THE CROSS ISLAND DEFENSES BUT THEY HAD STILL TO DEAL WITH *THE CAVES!*

THE CAVES!

CHIKUSHO DOMO! LET US GET OUT OF HERE!

SEVERN

HAYAKU! HAYAKU! BACK INTO THE CAVE! (COUGH!) THE MARINE DEVILS (COUGH!) ARE USING FLAME!

MATAKI YARE-YARE! AROUND THIS BEND! QUICKLY!

FROOSH!

YAI - YAI! THE FLAME IS ON NOMURA ME IS BURNING TO DEATH! BURNING TO DEATH!

KOI! KOI! THERE IS NO TIME! DO NOT LOOK BACK!

FOLLOW ME, MY MEN! DEEP INTO THE PASSAGEWAY! HAYAKU! HAYAKU!

STOP HERE! KOKOMADE DE YOI! NOW WE SHALL COUNT NOSES AND BIND WOUNDS! THEN WE WILL DECIDE OUR NEXT MOVE! MEANWHILE, REST AND REFRESH YOURSELVES AS WELL AS YOU CAN!

WATER!

WATER!

SOLDIERS! IT DOES NOT LOOK TOO WELL! WE HAVE OUTFOXED THE AMERICAN DEVILS BY USING OUR PASSAGEWAYS AGAIN AND AGAIN! BUT THIS CAVE ASSIGNED TO US IS BECOMING FAST SEALED UP! WE HAVE FEW EXITS OPEN TO US! BUT LET US ALL REMEMBER OUR BATTLE VOWS! WE WILL ***DIE FIGHTING***, AND EACH MAN WILL TAKE ***TEN AMERICANS WITH HIM!***

NANI HANASHIYAGARU! HEAR HOW HE TALKS!

'TAKE TEN AMERICANS WITH HIM! DIE FOR THE EMPEROR!' BAKATARE! HE IS A MILITARY MAN! LET *HIM* DIE!

LET HIM GO FENCE THE AMERICANS WITH HIS SAMURAI SWORD! HE MAY WANT TO DIE FOR THE EMPEROR, BUT I WANT TO LIVE! I HAVE NO DESIRE FOR DEATH!

COME, SOLDIERS! OUR LAST CAVE ENTRANCE IS UNDETECTED! IT APPEARS LIKE A ROCKPILE FROM THE OUTSIDE! TONIKAKU YOKARO!

LOOK! A FLAME THROWING TANK MOVES ALONG THE TERRACE, FIRING INTO THE CAVE ENTRANCES! HAYAKU YOII O SHIYO! WE MUST ACT QUICKLY!

NOW WE SHALL HAVE OUR REVENGE! LISTEN CAREFULLY, MEN! WE ARE SHORT OF WATER, AND A CISTERN LIES JUST ONE HUNDRED YARDS AWAY!

NOW YOU TWO.. YOU PILOTS WHO HAVE TAKEN THE KAMIKAZE OATH AND WEAR THE KAMIKAZE SCARVES! TO YOU SHALL FALL THE TASK OF RUNNING TO THE TANK AND DESTROYING IT!

THE REMAINDER OF US SHALL SPLIT INTO GROUPS! HALF SHALL RUN TO THE CISTERN WITH PAILS, AND HALF WILL REMAIN TO CREATE DIVERSIONARY COVERING FIRE! SONO TORI DA!

YOII GA DEKITA! NOW, YOU KAMIKAZES ARE READY! YOU HAVE THE MINES STRAPPED TO YOUR BODIES! ALTHOUGH YOU FACE DEATH, REMEMBER... FOR US, IN DEATH THERE IS LIFE! YOU ARE THE NOBLEST OF US ALL!

ALL RIGHT! EVERY MAN STAND READY! YOU KNOW YOUR TASKS!... NOW, GO!

WORE NO ATOTSUKE RO! MIZJTAMARI NO TOKORO NI.!

KRACK!

AMERIKA NO BAKA YARO! KONDO KOSO YATTSUKERU ZO!!

GRACK!

KRACK!

BLAM!

BLAM!

BANZAI! THE TANK IS DESTROYED!

TO THE CISTERN! ...UH!

ABUNAI! A MACHINE GUN! ..OH!

BULLETS! EVERYWHERE!.. MUST GET BACK!

BRATAT!

-MUST..OH! A BURNING IN MY ARM! I AM SHOT!

B-DING

BWEEEE

I AM WOUNDED! BUT I AM ALIVE! AT LEAST I AM ALIVE! I DON'T WANT TO DE' NOT YET! NOT YET!

BOOM!

BDEEE!

KIMIRA KO!, BACK INTO THE PASSAGEWAY! THE AMERICANS WILL SOON SHOOT FLAMING OIL INTO THIS TUNNEL!

WE WILL STOP HERE!

KIMIRA MA NEPON HE SHI DA!! WE ARE TRAPPED! THIS SECTOR IS COMPLETELY CUT OFF! THE AMERICANS NOW GUARD EVERY EXIT!

THE ONLY ESCAPE IS SURRENDER OR DEATH... AND, SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, I WOULD DIE A HUNDRED DEATHS RATHER THAN FACE THE DISGRACE AND TORTURE OF CAPTURE!

I AM SURE YOU ALL FEEL THE SAME! SINCE WE CANNOT LEAVE THE CAVES, AND SINCE WE FACE ONLY SLOW DEATH BY THIRST AND SUFFOCATION...

LET US TAKE THE MERCIFUL WAY! I SHALL GIVE HAND GRENADES TO EVERYONE! THEN I SHALL JOIN MY ANCESTORS IN HEAVEN... FOR AS YOU ALL KNOW THE SURE WAY TO HEAVEN IS THRO' HONORABLE DEATH ON THE BATTLEFIELD!

I SHALL OFFER UP MY SOUL WHILE REJOICING OF LIVING BY THE ETERNAL PRINCIPLE! I TRUST YOU WILL FOLLOW MY EXAMPLE!

LONG LIVE JAPAN!

WHAMMA-RAP!

RAP! RAP!

RAP!

WAUMP!

PAUMP!

(COUGH!) ALL ARE DEAD! (COUGH!) ALL BUT I!

I WANT TO LIVE! I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT WITH A HAND GRENADE BURST!

I AM TREMBLING AND SHAKING LIKE A LEAF! I HAVE NO COURAGE! NO COURAGE TO SET OFF A GRENADE! I AM A COWARD!

MATTAKU NASAKENAI NA—!! I CAN NEVER FACE THOSE I LOVE AT HOME! I AM A DISGRACE! MY ARM PAINS! I AM SICK AND THIRSTY... AND WRETCHED... OH, SO WRETCHED! NASAKENAI NA! WHAT'S THE USE OF LIVING! THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO REDEEM MYSELF... ONE WAY!

I DON'T CARE ANY MORE! I DON'T CARE!

BANZAI! BANZAI! AMERIKA JIN BAKA!

HEY! THERE'S ONE!

HE'S GOT GRE-NADES!

GET 'IM!

BLAM!

BLAM-BLAM-BLAM!

BLAM!

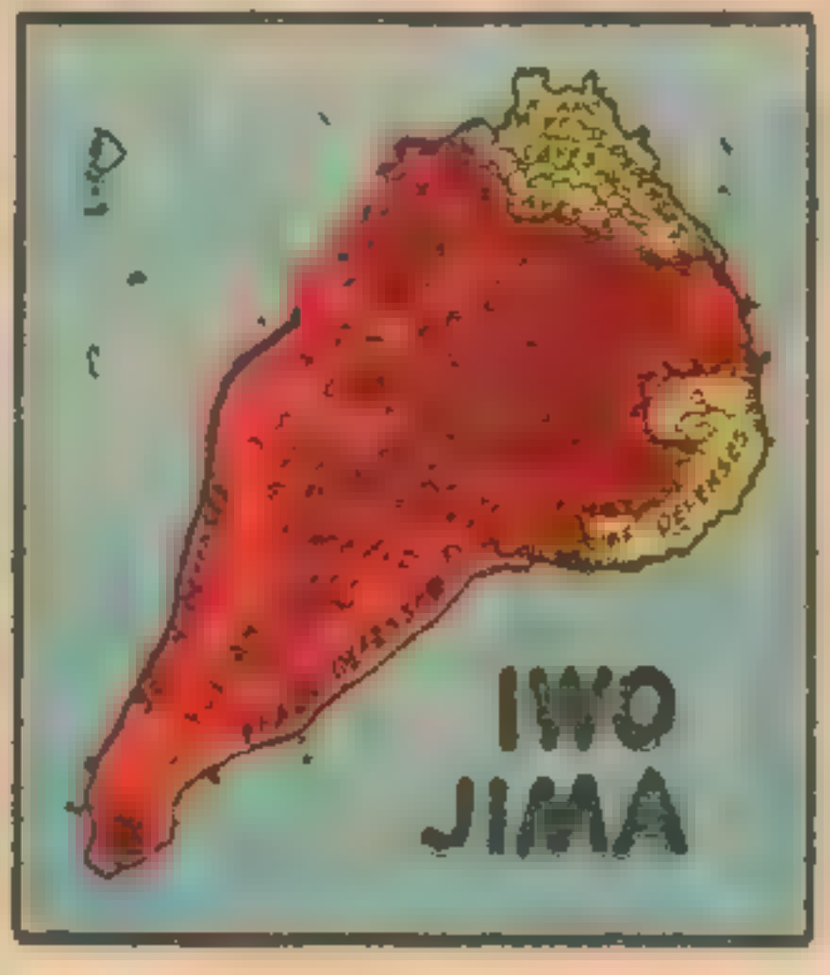
HOW DO YOU *LIKE* THAT?

CRAZY JAPS!

THEY COMMIT SUICIDE EVERY TIME!

I WONDER WHY?

BY D PLUS 19, THE MARINES HAD CUT TO THE SEA! THE JAPS WERE SPLIT! NOW CAME THE 'MOPPING UP'!



From the Halls of Montezuma
To the shores of Tripoli,
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land and sea.
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title of
UNITED STATES MARINE.

Brother, there's many a mile and many a Marine-invaded shore between "the Halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli"! But our idolized Marine Corps earned their "first to fight" reputation back on November 10, 1775, at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia. It was then that the Continental Congress sent out a call for seagoing soldiers, able to fight on land or water. Yes, a stalwart little band, equipped with flintlocks and dressed in make-shift clothes, gathered at Tun Tavern that day. Little did they know that their band would number 485,000 men in World War II, some 175 years later!

During its thriving and colorful existence, the Marine Corps has waded, crawled, scrambled, and blasted its way to shore in over 250 places on the face of the earth! They have climbed more mountains, sailed more seas, crossed more deserts; effected more rescues, quelled more rebellions, stormed more garrisons, unseated more tyrants; ridden more camels, dog sleds, shaggy Mongolian ponies, rubber boats, and submarines, than any other Yankee fighting

force! They also suffered 85,000 casualties in World War II.

General Winfield Scott took the Marines on his valiant march to Mexico City in 1847. The Marines knew what Scott meant when he drew his sword and threw away the scabbard. In that stubborn Battle of Churubusco, the Marines joined forces with regular soldiers to flatten stiff Mexican defenses and scale the walls of Chapultepec. They took the National Palace . . . the now renowned "Halls of Montezuma."

There was a time when Barbary State pirates, on the north coast of Africa, abused our merchantmen. When a tribute-demanding pasha cut down the Stars and Stripes from over our consulate in 1801, our Navy and Marines responded to this brazen declaration of war. Under Lt. Stephen Decatur, the Marines struck the "shores of Tripoli."

Marines marched from Alexandria, Egypt, across the Libyan Desert, along the shores of the Mediterranean, to seize the walled city of Derna in Tripoli. The Stars and Stripes flew over that city in 1805, the first time Old Glory waved in that part of the world.

Soon after Communist North Koreans pushed across the 38th parallel, the Leathernecks were in action against a numerically superior enemy. Before this war is over, the Marine Corps will have engaged in many more bitter campaigns!

First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title of
UNITED STATES MARINE!

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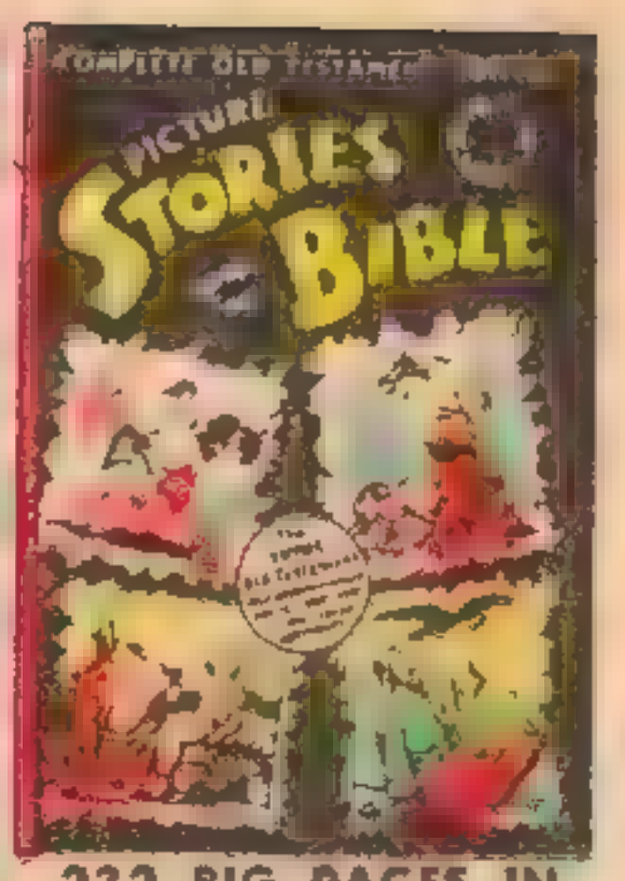

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FRONT LINES

Some of you readers may remember that in our first FRONT LINES page we printed a letter from a Miss Margaret M. Credie! This letter has had the effect of a time bomb! Your comments on Miss Credie's letter have been pouring in. Unfortunately, we cannot begin to print all of the letters, and so must regretfully omit many thoughtful and intelligent ones. We are sure that those who were passed up will understand! We are happy to report that of the literally hundreds and hundreds of letters received, only ONE sided with Miss Credie!:

Dear Edstors.

...Don't taint the kiddies' minds with how horrible adults are in war. *Mrs. Mary McNamarra*
Stamfordy Conn

And now some letters from the so-called "kiddies"...

Dear Editors.

I thought I'd better cool down a little before answering Miss Credie's letter! Her main point is that because there is so much brutality in the world, everyone ought to seek escape to forget the world we're living in! The world is in such a stomach-turning mess that the front pages of the New York Times will either have to print comedy or go unread, according to Miss Credie!

Larry Stark
Glens Falls, N Y

I consider myself one of the younger generation Miss Credie speaks about When I read a comic book, I don't always look for funny things -I look for exciting dramatic things *Robert King*
Cumberland Md

If we, as boys, by reading the magazine, can see what war is like, perhaps when we grow up, some of us may put a stop to it before the world is destroyed

James Savage
Yonkers, N Y

...Miss Credie has taken a sad view of things. Would the world be better if men didn't speak of war?

Robert Heintz
Dayton, Ohio

Miss Credie, I'm afraid, is terribly outnumbered in these United States. I firmly believe the E.C. Line to be God's Punishment to all the other comic magazine houses for mulcting the public for so long with second-rate trash!

Joseph Gardon
Buffalo, N Y

These were just a few of the more patient letters we received! A little *less* patient were those who said simply ...

..: She can go fly a kite!

Pete Brown
Miami Beach, Fla

..I think it a (CENSORED) outrage!

Anthony Thiele
Chicago, Ill.

..Let her go back to reading love comics.

Thomas Martel
Lebanon, Pa.

Before going on, we'd like to say that we are most pleased to know that we have so many friends! —ed.

Dear Editors,

Concerning Thunderjets in the story WAR MACHINE *they do not go faster than sound, but a little over 600 mph.*

Brian Moores
Augusta, Maine

True! A popular notion is that our jets are flying at speeds faster than sound. Actually, just a few test planes are flying at that speed! Our popular fighters still fly at sub-sonic speeds. —ed.

Dear Editors,

In your March-April issue you said that the Patton M-46 tank mounted a seventy-five mm cannon. I disagree. It's a 90 mm cannon! *George Chester*
Washington, D.C.

Thanks to reader Chester for correcting our mistake.—ed.

Dear Editors.

You had a story mentioning a "bandoleer"! What is a bandoleer? *Max Wiars*
(no address given)

A bandoleer is a canvas belt lined with bullet-pouches and usually carried around the shoulders —ed

Dear Editors

In my opinion, Harvey Kurtzman is a psychopathic All the people in his stories are always talking to themselves, or always wanting to knife someone.

Jimmy Phalan
Earlington, Ky

You're absolutely-right, Jim!
—Wm M Gaines, Managing Editor

Dear Editors,

Would you please tell me the dates when Two-Fisted Tales and Frontline Combat will hit Davis's Drug Store Stand at Park Heights and Belvedere Ave

Melvin German
Baltimore, Md

We're afraid you'll have to ask Mr. Davis of Davis's Drug Store Stand at Park Heights and Belvedere Ave., Melvin! (MELVIN???) (Seriously, the best we could give you would be a worthless two week approximation. Mel! The on-sale date varies around the country!)

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The Editors
Frontline Combat
Room 706, Dept. 7
225 Lafayette Street
N.Y.C. 12, N.Y.

CHAPTER IV THE BATTLE ON IWO JIMA DIDN'T END SUDDENLY! IT SLOWLY PETERED OUT! AFTER D+ 9, THE JAPANESE WERE DISORGANIZED AND WITHOUT HEAVY GUNS! NEVERTHELESS, THEY FOUGHT ON TO THE LAST MAN! WITH SOME STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION, YOU MIGHT CALL THIS LAST PHASE OF THE CAMPAIGN...

MOPPING UP!

MAN! AI CAIN'T FIGGUH HOW THEM JAPANESE MINDS WORK!

HE SURE WALKED INTO THEM BULLETS!

USMC

JACK DAVIS

WE'D BETTER GET GOING, WOODROW!

HEY! LET'S GO, SQUAD! THEY'RE CALLING FOR AN M.G. UP AHEAD!

JUST LOOK AT THIS PLACE! IT'S A BAD DREAM!

FEEL THAT GROUND! IT'S ACTUALLY *HOT*! HEY! LET'S MOVE! WE'RE FALLING BEHIND!

KEEP LOW, WOODROW! I'M GOING TO RUN FOR THAT SHELL-HOLE!

SHO' NUFF, CO'PRAL RALPH!

LET'S GO, WOOD!

WHERE THE HECK'S THE REST OF THE CREW?

THEAH A-COMIN', CO'PRAL RALPH!

LET'S GO YOU GUYS! ON THE...

WONK!

...MORTAR!

WHUMP!

LAWD-A MERCY!

DROPPED RIGHT ON OUR CREW! A DEAD CENTER HIT!

THIS ROCK! THIS @☆/m* #☐☐ ?*☐☆ STINKING ROCK! I'M SICK TO DEATH OF SMELLING IT!

D-DAY PLUS 2! BY D PLUS 2: THE JAPANESE HELD TWO LAST POCKETS OF RESISTANCE! AND THE JAPANESE BULLETS WERE STILL AS *DEADLY AS EVER!*

HEY, CO PRAL RALPH! TAKE T EASY FOAH A MINUTE!

WHATTAYA MEAN TAKE IT EASY! THINK I'M THROWING THIS PONCHO OVER THE M.G. FOR FUN?

AWW' C MON, SEDDOWN AN' RELAX, CO PRAL RALPH!

(SIGH)... GUESS I'M GETTING KIND OF NERVOJS WOODROW'

FFEN WE ALL STAY ON THE LINE MUCH LONGUH, WE *ALL* GONNA *BLOW OUAH TOPS!*

YEAH. I DON'T CARRY A RABB.T'S FOOT' SOONER OR LATER, MY NUMBER'S GONNA BE UP!

PSHAW, MAN! WE ALL GOIN' TUH GET OUTTA HEAH, *ALL* RIGHT! DON'T YOU FRET!

HEY, WOODROW! LOOK WHAT I'VE GOT HERE!

THEY BROUGHT IT OVER TODAY! A LETTER FROM MY KID BROTHER, SEE? HE SENT ME A PHOTO! GET A LOAD OF TH S!

THE KID'S A *LIEUTENANT!* HE'S A BOMBARDIER ON A B-29! *I* HAVE TO SALUTE *HIM!* HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT WOODROW?

HEY, CORPORAL! MY BROTHER IS IN THE AIR CORPS TOO! HE'S A MAJOR! LOOK!

I'VE GOT A PHOTOGRAPH OF HIM TOO! I THINK HE'S BEEN ON A B-29!

HERE LET ME SHOW YOU!

GEDDOWN, BOY! THEAH'S A SNIPUH OUT THEAH!

DON'T WORRY, WOOD...

THOK

DID YOU SEE IT? DID YOU SEE IT, WOODROW? THAT KID WAS A REPLACEMENT! I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HIS NAME! WHY? WHY? WHY?

C'MON BOY THE LIEUTENANT'S SIGNALIN' US UP! LET'S GO! THIS FIGHT'LL BE OVAH SOON!

D-DAY PLUS 25! BY D PLUS 25, ADMIRAL NIMITZ ANNOUNCED THAT ORGANIZED RESISTANCE ON IWO JIMA HAD ENDED! NEVERTHELESS THE BLOODSHED HAD NOT!

WHAT'S RALPH YELLIN' AT US FOR, WOOD? IS HE GETTING CHICKEN?

AWW, GO EASY ON HIM, BOY! HE BEEN IN THE LINE LONGUH'N THE REST O' US! IT BEGINS TA WEAH YOU DOWN! ... HEY! CO'PRAL RALPH!

WEAH COMIN' ON THE DOUB...

WOODROW!

WOODROW! STEPPED ON A MINE!

NO! NO! NO! NO!

WHY AM I HERE? WHY? WHY?

WHAT DO I WANT WITH THIS CRUMMY STINKING VOLCANO? WHY ARE WE DYING FOR IT?

THE PLATOON IS WAITING FOR US TO COME UP, CORPORAL RALPH! ARE YOU COMING?

CORPORAL RALPH?

HE'S FINISHED!

YEAH! COMBAT FATIGUE!

WELL! WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GO!

HEY! ISN'T THAT B-29 COMING IN AWFUL LOW?

COME ON WITH THAT AMMUNITION!

SCEEEEBAWM

MADE IT! FELLAS! WE MADE IT!

HEY! SOLDIER!

HEY SOLDIER! IS THIS IWO JIMA'?

PETER?

PETER RALPH?

PETER!

DAVID! DAVID! IT'S YOU!

PETER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

DAVE! IT'S OLD HOME WEEK FOR THE RALPH BROTHERS! OH, BROTHER! IF YOU AND YOUR BOYS HADN'T CAPTURED IWO JIMA, I'D BE A GONE GOOSE!

AND SO THE BATTLE CLOSED, AND THIS WAS THE SCORE! MARINES KILLED: 4,907! JAPANESE KILLED: 21,449! IN THE FOLLOWING MONTHS, AN ESTIMATED 9,000 AIRMEN WERE SAVED BY EMERGENCY LANDING ON IWO!

BY D PLUS 44: ALL THE MARINES SAILED AWAY LEAVING THE ARMY AND AIR CORPS IN CONTROL!

THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA WAS AT AN END

IWO JIMA

LEOPARD

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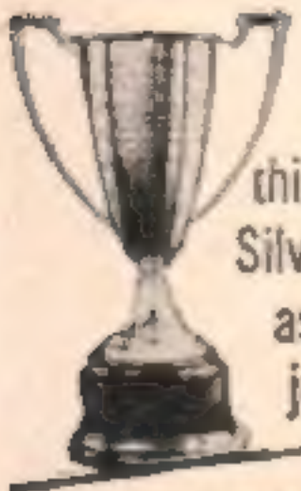

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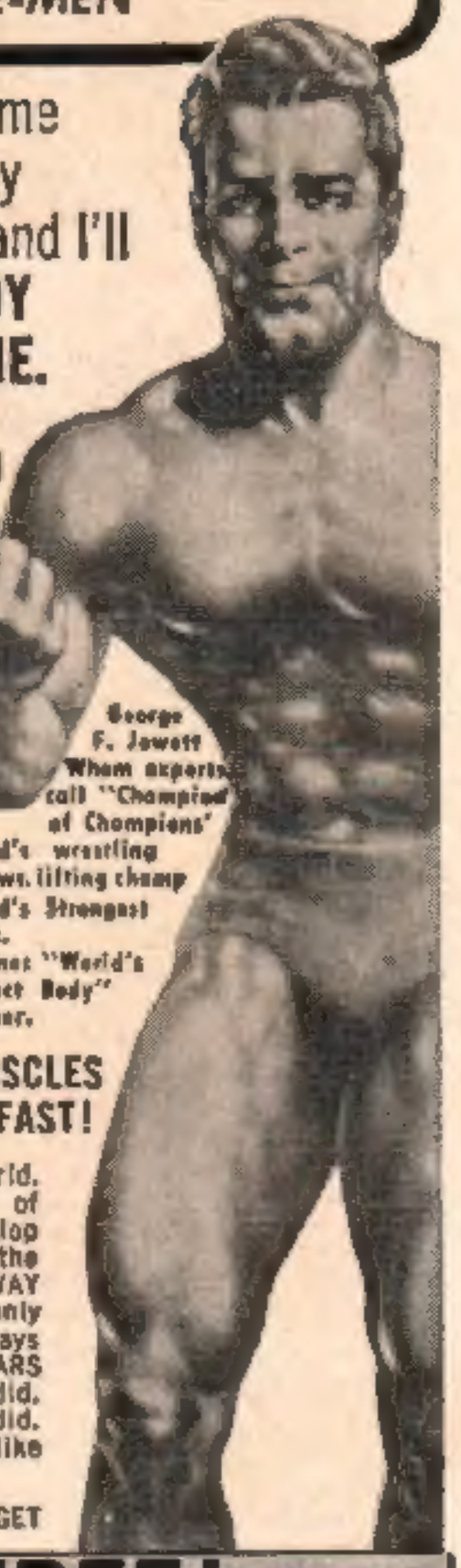

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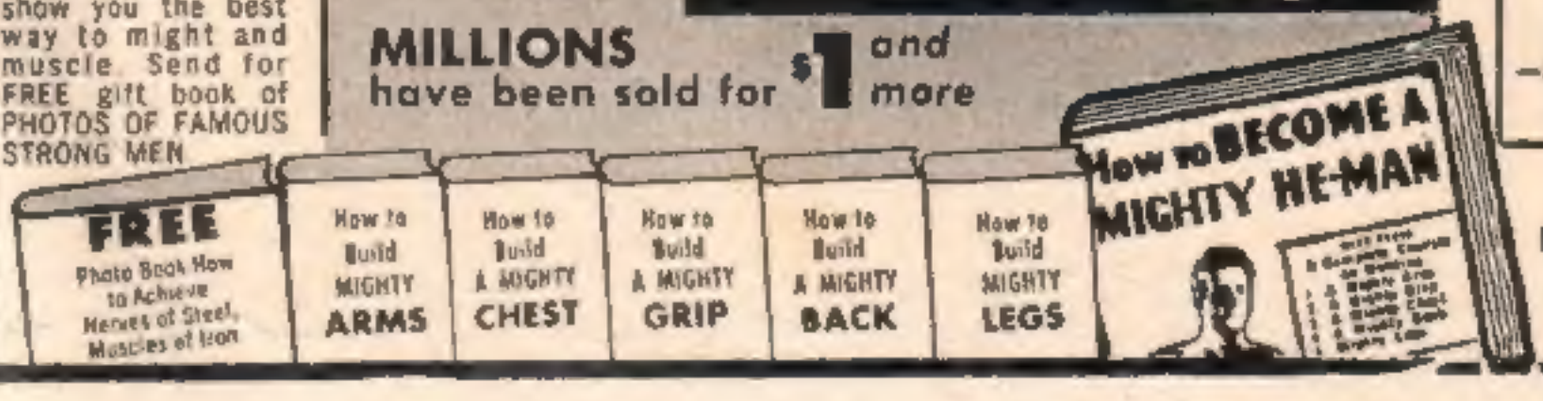
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